



Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project

WORK PLAN UPDATE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (WRP) is requesting proposals for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects for coastal wetlands and watersheds in Southern California. Project proposals must be postmarked by May 15, 2003. Projects selected for the WRP Work Plan become eligible for WRP funding; however, **INCLUSION ON THE WRP WORK PLAN DOES NOT MEAN THE PROJECT HAS BEEN AWARDED A GRANT.**

INTRODUCTION

The Wetlands Recovery Project is a partnership of 17 state and federal agencies working in concert with local government, businesses, and the environmental community to implement a regional wetlands recovery strategy for coastal Southern California (stretching from Point Conception to the border with Mexico). The long-term vision of the WRP is to reestablish a mosaic of functioning wetland and riparian systems that supports a diversity of fish and wildlife species. The *WRP Regional Strategy* defines six overarching goals to guide the efforts of the Wetlands Recovery Project towards achieving this vision. The regional goals provide a framework for setting policies and priorities for acquisition and restoration projects. Projects that are selected for the WRP Work Plan are carried out by the Coastal Conservancy in cooperation with local partners. For more information on the WRP, see the web site at:

<http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp>.

Each year the WRP adopts a list of candidate acquisition, restoration, and enhancement projects which is referred to as the Work Plan. Projects on the Work Plan are eligible for WRP funding; however, inclusion on the work plan does not mean the project has been awarded a grant. Once the Work Plan is approved, Coastal Conservancy staff will work with proponents of candidate projects to further develop and refine the project scope and identify additional funding sources. When the project is ready to be implemented, a recommendation will be made to the Coastal Conservancy board to award a grant to the project. See the Supplementary Information sheet for more information on what happens after a project is selected for the Work Plan.

WRP WORK PLAN

Each year, the WRP solicits proposals for coastal wetlands and coastal watershed projects in Southern California to be considered for the WRP Work Plan. These projects include acquisition, restoration, enhancement, and planning projects. The WRP Wetlands Managers Group (WMG) reviews and ranks the proposals based on adopted project evaluation criteria (see attached) and best professional judgment.

Because of the many uncertainties involved with project implementation, the Work Plan includes more projects than the anticipated amount of WRP funds for the year. Projects selected for the WRP Work Plan will be divided into three categories:

- Tier 1 – High priority projects. A Coastal Conservancy project manager will be immediately assigned to all Tier 1 projects. Tier 1 projects will have the highest priority for available WRP funds; however, grants for Tier 1 projects still require approval by the Coastal Conservancy Board.
- Tier 2 – Medium priority projects. Tier 2 projects will be assigned a Coastal Conservancy project manager as soon as possible to help project proponents ready the project. If funding is available, some Tier 2 projects may receive WRP funds following approval by the Coastal Conservancy Board.
- Project Incubator – Projects requiring a significant amount of further development before being considered for a grant. The Coastal Conservancy will provide written feedback about additional steps that must be completed before the project can be moved to Tier 1 or 2. Projects in the Project Incubator will be re-evaluated every year and may be removed from the Work Plan based on new developments or lack of progress.

The attached “Guidelines for WRP Work Plan” provides an overview of the types of priority projects that the WRP is interested in pursuing. **The WRP anticipates adding approximately ten new projects to the Work Plan this year.**

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Projects

Minimum project requirements for consideration of WRP funding are as follows:

- Consistent with the WRP Regional Strategy.
- Acquisition, restoration, or enhancement project (including planning) for a coastal wetland or coastal stream corridor.
- Located in WRP region (from Point Conception in Santa Barbara County south to the U.S./Mexico border).
- Acquisition projects must have a willing seller.

Eligible Applicants

Government agencies (federal, state, local, and special districts) and certain nonprofit organizations are eligible for funding. Eligible nonprofit organizations must exist under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and their principal charitable purposes must be consistent with Division 21 of the California Public Resources Code (the enabling legislation for the Coastal Conservancy).

AVAILABLE FUNDING

There are no established minimum or maximum award amounts, or matching requirements for WRP projects. By statute, however, the maximum Conservancy grant for preparation of an Enhancement Plan is \$300,000. The Conservancy will base funding awards on project needs and benefits, as well as on competing demands for funds. Significant matching funds or services will improve a project’s ranking. For projects requesting \$30,000 or less, please refer to the SCWRP small grants program.

PROJECT SELECTION

Project proposals submitted to the WRP, will be reviewed by the Coastal Conservancy, WMG and the appropriate County Task Force. Projects will be reviewed on the basis of ecological, feasibility, and policy considerations (see attached Project Evaluation Criteria). The WMG will present the draft Work Plan for approval by the Governing Board at its meeting in late summer 2003. The Coastal Conservancy will then work with projects proponents to implement the project.

PROCESS FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS

1. Proposals postmarked by May 15, 2003, will be evaluated for placement on the Work Plan. Proposals may also be submitted anytime thereafter, and will be evaluated and ranked by WMG as time permits. Proposals submitted after May 15 are unlikely to be considered for the Work Plan.
2. Following submission of the proposals, Coastal Conservancy staff and the County Task Forces may follow up with project proponents to get additional information and clarification about proposed projects.
3. Proposals should be submitted as follows:
 - Two hard copies sent to the Coastal Conservancy at the address below.
 - One hard copy sent to the appropriate County Task Force leader (see addresses below).
 - Email copy sent to Coastal Conservancy and appropriate Task Force leader. Please see proposal guidelines for instructions on preparing the email copy.

Coastal Conservancy:

Trish Chapman
Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612
tchapman@scc.ca.gov

San Diego County Task Force:

Doug Gibson
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
P.O. Box 230634
Encinitas, CA 92024
dgibson@sanelijo.org

Orange County Task Force:

Marilyn Thoms
Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks
PO Box 9256
Newport Beach, CA 9265813341
mtthoms@aol.com

Los Angeles County Task Force:

Mary Loquvam
LA/San Gabriel Rivers Watershed
Council
111 N. Hope St., Suite 627
Los Angeles, CA 90012
mary@lasgrwc.org

Ventura County Task Force:

Greg Gauthier
WRP Watershed Coordinator
P.O. Box 22405
Santa Barbara, CA 93121
GGauthier@aol.com

Santa Barbara County Task Force:

Bob Thiel
Community Environmental Council
930 Miramonte Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93109
thiel@cecmail.org

INFORMATION MEETINGS

In April 2003, the WMG will hold three regional meetings in cooperation with the county task forces to hear presentations on project proposals and offer suggestions for making proposals stronger. Project applicants that are strongly encouraged to present their project at one of these meetings. In order to present a project, applicants must submit a two page project summary to scwrp@scc.ca.gov prior to the meeting (see dates below). Meeting dates are as follows:

Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties– April 10, 2:00-4:30, Ventura County Administration Building, 800 Victoria Avenue, Ventura, 3rd Floor multi-purpose room (project summaries due by April 7).

San Diego County – April 14, 1:00 – 3:00, County Administration Building, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, room to be announced (project summaries due by April 10).

Los Angeles and Orange Counties – April 15, 9:30-12:00, Long Beach Federal Building, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, NMFS Training Room (project summaries due by April 10).

INQUIRIES

All inquiries should be directed to:

Trish Chapman
Coastal Conservancy
(510) 286-0749
tchapman@scc.ca.gov

Project Evaluation Criteria

Ecological Criteria

Regional Goal 1. Preserve and restore coastal wetland ecosystems

Regional Goal 2. Preserve and restore stream corridors and wetland ecosystems in coastal watersheds.

- Restoration potential/ functional gain – How much potential is there to increase the ecological function and/or value of a site, including the amount and quality of habitat or potential habitat for sensitive and important wetland-dependent species? To what extent will the project restore functioning of natural processes (e.g., hydrology, sediment transport)? Will the project result in an increase in wetland acreage?
- Connection to transitional/upland areas – To what extent is the wetland site physically and ecologically connected to transitional/upland areas?
- Connection to coastal resources – To what extent is the site ecologically or hydrologically connected to coastal resources, including coastal wetlands and nearshore waters? To what extent will the project benefit marine and intertidal resources?
- Self-sustainability – Will potential restoration improvements be sustainable through natural wetland functioning? What is the likelihood of future degradation after restoration has occurred? What level of ongoing site management and/or maintenance will be required?

Regional Goal 3. Recover native habitat and species diversity.

- Habitat Diversity – Will the project preserve or restore a diversity of a habitat types on site? Will project contribute significantly to regional diversity? What species of concern are known to use the site, or would potentially use the site if restored? Will the project remove exotic species and re-establish native species? Will the project restore habitat linkages and wildlife corridors?
- Regional linkage – What is the site's function and value from a regional perspective, including sensitive species habitat, use by migratory birds, fisheries support, and biodiversity?

Project Evaluation Criteria, continued

Policy Criteria

Regional Goals 1-3.

- Threat of future degradation/loss – Could future loss or degradation of the wetland or stream corridor be prevented through Wetlands Recovery Project involvement? How imminent is the threat?

Regional Goal 4. Integrate wetlands recovery with other public objectives.

- Multiple objectives – What additional public objectives will the project achieve? Is wetlands recovery the primary objective of the project or a secondary objective?

Regional Goal 5. Promote education and compatible access related to coastal wetlands and watersheds.

- Education/access value – Does the project include an education/interpretive element? Will the project provide public access that is compatible with the habitat and functional objectives? Are there education or interpretive programs onsite or nearby that will complement the project.

Regional Goal 6. Advance the science of wetlands restoration and management in Southern California.

- Research value – Is wetlands research incorporated into the project? What research questions will the project address?

Feasibility Criteria

- Site availability – Is the owner willing to sell the land or participate in a restoration project?
- Cost/cost effectiveness – What is the total cost and relative cost effectiveness?
- Funding – What funding is available for the project?
- Restoration/enhancement plan – Is there an existing restoration/enhancement plan that is consistent with the Wetlands Project's objectives and science-based criteria? Does it include a monitoring plan? Has the plan undergone environmental review?
- Technical practicability – Are the planned restoration activities technically and biologically feasible and practicable?
- Future management – Is an appropriate future owner and/or manager available for the site? Are sufficient funds available for long-term site management?

Guidelines for WRP Work Plan

The following tables provide guidance on the types of projects that are likely to be approved on the WRP Work Plan. However, this is not an exhaustive list of eligible projects. Projects that do not fit within the descriptions below, but that would further goals identified in the WRP's Regional Strategy, will still be considered.

Tidal Wetland Ecosystems (TWE) -- Tidal wetlands, plus the immediately adjacent marine and upland/transitional systems.

High Priority	Medium Priority
Acquisition of TWEs that are primarily in private ownership.	Acquisition of private parcels in TWEs that are primarily publicly owned.
Comprehensive restoration plans.	Restoration plans for a portion of a TWE.
Plan and implement restoration (restoring a system to functioning habitat)	Plan and implement enhancement (increasing the quality of a functioning system)

Stream Corridors/Riparian Areas

High Priority	Medium Priority
Acquisition of large areas of wetland or riparian habitat or floodplain (for example, areas that are greater than 50 acres or longer than 2 miles of stream corridor) or areas that add to an existing preserve of contiguous wetland habitat or stream corridor.	Acquisition of smaller areas of wetland or riparian habitat or floodplain that are not contiguous with an existing preserve.
Focused assessment of watershed functioning, stressors, priorities, and identification of specific projects.	Comprehensive watershed management plans.
Planning and implementation of priority projects to preserve or restore ecological functioning of stream corridors as identified in watershed assessment or planning document. This can include urban stream restoration projects that are a priority in the watershed.	Planning and implementation of restoration projects to restore ecological functioning of stream corridors that are not part of a broader watershed planning/management effort.
Restoration planning and implementation to address watershed impacts on TWEs and coastal resources.	

Proposed project areas will also be evaluated for the following factors:

- Contributes significantly to watershed functioning
- Provides habitat for T&E species
- Is not unduly threatened by upstream impacts
- Faces imminent threat of development

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Each proposal should include:

- Proposal Summary (see attached form)
- Proposal Narrative including:
 - Site Description
 - Project Description
 - Project History and Development
 - Applicable Experience
 - Budget (see attached tables)
- Project maps and photos

Please follow these guidelines for emailing proposals and attachments: Proposal summary and narrative should be emailed as one file in Microsoft Word, or WordPerfect format. **DO NOT EMBED PICTURES** into the project proposal. Pictures should be attached as separate files. If possible, please send electronic copies of all maps and photos (jpg or gif are the preferred formats).

WRP projects are divided into three categories: planning, restoration/enhancement, and acquisition. Guidelines for the project narrative are different for each type of project – please be sure to use the guidelines for the appropriate project type.

An electronic copy of the proposal template is available on the WRP web site at: http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp/documents/RFP_template.doc. Applicants are encouraged to use this template.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

1. **Project Name:**

2. **Type of Project** (check only one): ☐ Acquisition ☐ Planning
☐ Restoration/Enhancement

3. **Project summary** (1-2 sentences -- specify key action(s) to be undertaken):

4. **Location:** County: _____
Watershed: _____
State Senate District (#): _____
State Assembly District (#): _____

5. **Acreage:** Total acreage of project area: _____ .
Acres of existing (pre-project) wetland habitat: _____ .
Acres of post-project wetland habitat: _____ .
Feet of stream corridor (if applicable) : _____ .

6. **Budget Summary:** Total project cost: \$_____ .
Amount requested from WRP: \$_____ .

7. **Contact Information:**

Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____

Telephone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

8. **Proposal prepared by** _____ **Title** _____
Signature _____ **Date** _____

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – PLANNING PROJECTS

Please use the following outline as a guide in preparing the project narrative for planning projects. To help you determine the level of detailed desired, recommended lengths for each section are indicated in parentheses. Do not embed pictures or maps in the project narrative, please provide them as separate files.

1. Site Description (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe the project area (i.e., general description of area in around project site including significant natural resources in proximity to site).
- Provide the total acreage of project site, acres of existing wetland habitat, and/or feet of stream corridor on site.
- Identify the primary vegetation communities found on the project site.
- Identify any listed species known to use the site, or potentially use it.
- Describe past and present uses of the site.

2. Project Description (1-2 pages)

- Describe the need for the project.
- Summarize the specific planning document(s) to be prepared (e.g., baseline habitat assessment, conceptual restoration plan, etc.).
- Specify the stage of the planning effort:
 - Collection of baseline data and resource assessment (no CEQA required)
 - Conceptual restoration plan (CEQA probably not required yet)
 - Detailed restoration plan/construction documents (CEQA required)
 - Other
- Identify major project elements or tasks to be completed (e.g., prepare hydrology study, monitor baseline conditions, prepare CEQA document) and briefly describe the rationale and approach for each. Projects to prepare restoration or enhancement plans should include environmental review (CEQA) of the plan in the project tasks and budget.

3. Project History and Development (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe how the project relates to priorities identified in relevant planning documents (e.g., enhancement plan, watershed plan, MSCP/NCCP plan, local coastal plan, etc.).
- Describe coordination with affected agencies, landowners, and other interested parties that has already taken place.
- Identify ongoing or completed planning efforts related to the project.
- Identify previously completed projects in the same vicinity

4. Applicable Experience (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe similar projects that have been successfully completed by the applicant.

5. Budget Info (Tables 1A and 1B **or** Table 2 – see attached and template)

- Provide estimated cost of project, broken down by tasks
- List all funding sources and amounts, indicate whether funding is confirmed or not

6. Project Maps & Photos

- Include: 1) a regional map indicating the project area, and 2) a map of the project site.
- Include 1-3 photos of the project site.
- Electronic copies of maps and photos should be sent as separate files, preferably in jpg or gif format.

PROPOSAL NARRATIVE – RESTORATION/ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

Please use the following outline as a guide in preparing the project narrative for restoration and enhancement projects. To help you determine the level of detailed desired, recommended lengths for each section are indicated in parentheses. Do not embed pictures or maps in the project narrative, please provide them as separate pages or files.

1. Site Description (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe the project area (i.e., general description of area in around project site including significant natural resources in proximity to site).
- Provide the total acreage of project site, acres of existing wetland habitat, and/or feet of stream corridor on site.
- Identify the primary vegetation communities found on the project site.
- Identify any listed species known to use the site, or potentially use it.
- Describe past and present uses of the site.

2. Project Description (1-2 pages)

- Describe the need for the project.
- Summarize the specific action(s) to be undertaken (e.g., remove exotic species from 1 mile of stream corridor, restore 20 acres of salt marsh)
- Describe the major project elements or tasks to be completed.
- Provide a table with acres of each habitat type found on the site for both pre-project and post-project conditions.
- Explain how restoration/enhancement will be maintained in the long-term.
- Identify measures of success for the project.

3. Project History and Development (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe how the project relates to priorities identified in relevant planning documents (e.g., enhancement plan, watershed plan, MSCP/NCCP plan, local coastal plan, etc.).
- If a restoration/enhancement plan has been completed, provide a copy to the Conservancy.
- Explain the status of CEQA review for the project. Has CEQA review been completed? If yes, provide copy of the EIR, Negative Declaration, or Notice of Exemption to the Conservancy. If no, be sure to include completion of CEQA in project tasks and budget.
- List permits required for the project and the status of applications for each.
- Describe coordination with affected agencies, landowners, and other interested parties that has already taken place.
- Identify ongoing or completed planning efforts related to the project.
- Identify previously completed projects in the same vicinity.

4. Applicable Experience (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe similar projects that have been successfully completed by the applicant.

5. Budget Info (Tables 1A and 1B **or** Table 2 – see attached and template)

- Provide estimated cost of project, broken down by tasks
- List all funding sources and amounts, indicate whether funding is confirmed or not

6. Project Maps & Photos

- Include: 1) a regional map indicating the project area, and 2) a map of the project site.
- Include 1-3 photos of the project site.
- Electronic copies of maps and photos should be sent as separate files, preferably in jpg or gif format.

ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Please use the following outline as a guide in preparing the project narrative for acquisition projects. To help you determine the level of detailed desired, recommended lengths for each section are indicated in parentheses. Do not embed pictures or maps in the project narrative, please provide them as separate pages or files.

1. Site Description (3-4 paragraphs)

- Describe the project area (i.e., general description of area in around project site including significant natural resources in proximity to site).
- Provide the total acreage of project site, acres of existing wetland habitat, and/or feet of stream corridor on site.
- Identify the primary vegetation communities found on the project site.
- Identify any listed species known to use the site, or potentially use it.
- Describe past and present uses of the site.

2. Project Description (1-3 paragraphs)

- Describe the need for the project.
- Identify the property owner(s) (Property owner(s) must be a willing seller. Attach evidence of willingness to sell.).
- Specify if an appraisal for the property has been completed. If yes, provide copy to Conservancy.
- Describe the major project tasks (e.g., prepare an appraisal, complete Phase I assessment, acquire property, etc.).
- List intended uses of the property after acquisition.
- Summarize long-term management and maintenance plans for the site, including who will own/manage the property, and how long-term maintenance will be funded. If applicant is not future owner/manager, provide evidence that future owner/manager is a willing participant in the project.
- Provide a brief description of restoration/enhancement actions needed on the property, and an explanation of how those actions will be funded.

3. Project History and Development (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe how the project relates to priorities identified in relevant planning documents (e.g., enhancement plan, watershed plan, MSCP/NCCP plan, local coastal plan, etc.)
- Describe coordination with affected agencies, landowners, and other interested parties that has already taken place.
- Identify ongoing or completed planning efforts related to the project.
- Identify previously completed projects in the same vicinity

4. Applicable Experience (1-2 paragraphs)

- Describe similar projects that have been successfully completed by the applicant.

5. Budget Info (Tables 1A and 1B **or** Table 2 – see attached and template)

- Estimated cost of acquisition (breakdown by tasks if proposal includes pre-acquisition tasks such as appraisal, Phase I assessment, etc.)
- List of all funding sources and amounts, indicate whether funding is confirmed or not

6. Project Maps & Photos

- Include: 1) a regional map indicating the project area, 2) a map of the project site, and 3) a map showing specific property lines and assessor parcel numbers.
- Include project site photos if available.
- Electronic copies of maps and photos should be sent as separate files, preferably in jpg or gif format.

BUDGET TABLES

Include Table 1 *or* Tables 2A and 2B. Note: You can provide a different budget table as long as it provides the total project costs broken down by task and all of the project funding sources.

Table 1: Project Budget Broken Down by Task and Funding Source

(Add as many source columns as identified funding sources. Please specify

Project Task	Source 1 (replace with name of funding source)	Source 2	Source 3	Source 4	Subtotal task
TOTAL	Subtotal source 1	Subtotal source 2	Subtotal source 3	Subtotal source 4	TOTAL \$\$

-----OR-----

Table 2A: Estimated Project Budget

Project Task	Estimated Cost

Table 2B: Estimated Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount	Confirmed/Applied/Etc.